

LATHYRUS APHACA (FABACEAE), PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED FOR TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Lathyrus aphaca C. Linnaeus, previously unreported in Texas has been collected in Kaufman County.

KEY WORDS: *Lathyrus*, *Lathyrus aphaca*, Fabaceae, Texas

Lathyrus is a genus of about 120 species distributed throughout temperate regions of the world except Australia (Correll & Johnston 1970). Nine species are now recorded for Texas (including two cultivated species): *Lathyrus aphaca* C. Linnaeus, *L. graminifolius* (S. Watson) T. White, *L. hirsutus* C. Linnaeus, *L. lanszwertii* A. Kellogg var. *leucanthus* (P. Rydberg) R. Dorn, *L. latifolius* C. Linnaeus [cultivated], *L. odoratus* C. Linnaeus [cultivated], *L. polymorphus* T. Nuttall subsp. *incanus* (J.G. Smith & P. Rydberg) C. Hitchcock and subsp. *polymorphus* var. *polymorphus*, *L. pusillus* S. Elliott, and *L. venosus* G.H. Muhlenberg ex C. von Willdenow var. *intonsus* F. Butlers & H. St. John. Beardsley & Browne (1972) first reported this European native new to the Southeast United States from LA, MS, and TN. It was not listed as occurring in Texas by Gould (1975), Hatch, *et al.* (1990), nor Jones, *et al.* (1997).

Isely (1990) provides easy characters to separate *Lathyrus aphaca* from the other species in our flora. The inflorescences consist of a raceme(s) with 1(-2) apical yellow flowers; no leaflets, the leafstalk consisting only of a tendril; stipules are foliaceous, 1-4 cm long × (0.5-)1-3 cm wide, deltate-ovate to lanceolate. Additional characteristics include: annual; sprawling, suberect to slightly scandent unwinged stems 3-6(-10) dm long, glabrous; calyx 6-10 mm long, lobes subequal, lanceolate, exceeding tube; corolla 10-12 mm long; fruit short oblong, slightly upcurved, 2-4 cm long × 4-7 mm wide, glabrous, impressed between seeds.

Specimen collected: UNITED STATES. Texas: Kaufman Co., GPS: N 32° 46' 19", W 96° 18' 41", 1.4 mi SE on TX 205 from its jct. with FR 1392, N of Terrell, 02 May 1997, S.D. Jones 12913 & A. & S. Reznicek (ASTC,BRCH,BRIT,MICH,TEX). *Lathyrus aphaca* was locally abundant and growing in large tangled mats in an open disturbed roadside ditch with alluvial clay soil. Associated taxa included *Castilleja*, *Lolium*, *Carex*, *Polytaenia*, *Spermolepis*, and *Oenothera*. Additional sites were observed in Delta and other northeastern counties but no additional specimens were collected.

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